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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/682,995	11/06/2001	Bang Mo Kim	RD-27684	4683
6147	7590	01/21/2004	EXAMINER	
GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY GLOBAL RESEARCH CENTER PATENT DOCKET RM. 4A59 PO BOX 8, BLDG. K-1 ROSS NISKAYUNA, NY 12309			GAKH, YELENA G	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		1743		

DATE MAILED: 01/21/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/682,995	KIM ET AL.
	Examiner Yelena G. Gakh, Ph.D.	Art Unit 1743
<i>-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --</i>		
Period for Reply		
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). 		
Status		
1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>05 January 2004</u> .		
2a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final.		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.		
Disposition of Claims		
4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-67</u> is/are pending in the application.		
4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>29-67</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.		
6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-28</u> is/are rejected.		
7) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.		
8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.		
Application Papers		
9) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner.		
10) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on <u>06 November 2001</u> is/are: a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).		
11) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.		
Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120		
12) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some * c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.		
13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78. a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.		
14) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.		
Attachment(s)		
1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)		
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)		
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.		
4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.		
5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)		
6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.		

DETAILED ACTION

1. Amendment and Response filed on 01/05/04 are acknowledged. Claims 1-28 are pending in the Application. However, it is not apparent, if claims 29-67 are cancelled from the application, as they are enlisted again as being withdrawn.

Response to Amendment

2. The claims stay rejected and the specification stays objected on the same grounds as were established in the previous Office action.

Specification

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention

The specification is objected to as not being written in such full, clear, concise and exact terms as to enable anyone of ordinary skill in the art to practice the invention in its best mode. The specification indicates that a Waste Reduction module “predicts, or estimates, process parameters that may reduce wastes produced by the industrial process”; however, no disclosure is given on how this Waste Reduction module really works, and how the processes can be optimized for all possible industrial processes with outputs of multiple hazardous materials. It is not clear, how the Waste Reduction module treats information from different sources even for the same process, e.g. if it integrates all information independent on particular capabilities of a specific plant, etc. No working model for any of such process is disclosed and no examples demonstrating how such model can be used for predicting parameters to be optimized for reducing the wastes are represented. It is even less clear as to how the Waste Reduction module can handle multiple models for multiple processes using data from multiple sources, when the

multiple sources (e.g. plants) for even the same process have their own specific capabilities, or when there are multiple processes leading to the same waste materials? Would it be an optimization of the parameters for a specific process for a specific plant, or for all plants employing such process?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The Nature of the Invention

The invention is drawn to “a method of reducing wastes”. However, no actual methods or ways of reducing wastes are disclosed in the specification. The disclosure is related to collecting and distributing information regarding industrial processes. No reasonable suggestions or guidance on how to use this information for reducing the wastes are given in the specification.

The State of the Prior Art and the Level of Predictability in the Art

The prior art discloses monitoring hazardous and toxic waste using corresponding detectors, and collecting information from various locations on the central processor, as e.g. in Bell (US 4,867,604), Speranza (US 5,206,818), Carew (US 5,325,605), Taylor (US 5,373,160 and 5,451,787), Malone (US 5,425,316), Stedman et al. (US 5,498,872), Embutsu et al. (US 5,699,525) Jaidka (US 5,606,495), Orr et al. (US 5,808,916, Izumi et al. (JP 403001699 A),

Nishi et al. (JP02001114402 A) and Elokhin (RU 2147137 C1); or it discloses methods of reducing wastes by employing corresponding physical and chemical processes for destroying wastes, as disclosed by e.g. Gloster et al. (US 3,810,542), Von Klenck (US 3,859,933), Chappell (US 3,963,637), Falbesaner et al. (US 4,234,422) and DE 29912126U1. The prior art does not predict the ways of reducing wastes by collecting information on the output of industrial process and transforming it through the local or global network.

No working examples for the claimed method are represented in the specification.

The method claimed is not enabled by the disclosure and therefore cannot be used by anyone of ordinary skill in the art.

6. Claims 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

The specification does not disclose how it is possible to acquire process information concerning industrial process from a globally distributed computing network, with information concerning specific parameters, such as concentration of chemical species used in the process, pollutants emitted by the process, flow rates, etc., when these parameters are closely related to the production scales of the plants and can be very specific for a given plant. The specification does not disclose, how it is possible to gather information globally – is it gathered from all possible plants employing a specific process? How should this information be represented – specifically for each plant, as an average number, as a total sum for all plants, etc.? The specification does not enable anyone of ordinary skill in the art to practice the method the way it is disclosed, as no ways for presenting such information, as well as no specific description of what this information should be, are indicated in the specification.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 01/05/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The disclosure of the instant application is drawn to a very general model of managing wastes from various industrial processes, involving global network, which supposedly

relates to all possible industrial processes producing wastes in the world. While the general concept of the application, i.e. correlating amounts of wastes of various industrial processes with processes parameters followed by adjusting the parameters in order to reduce wastes, is quite clear and obvious, realization of such concept remains vague and non-enabled. Figure 3 is represented in the Applicants' arguments as describing "specific embodiments", enabled by the disclosure. However, the drawing gives only a very general scheme of managing solid, liquid and gaseous wastes, with no description of how to utilize this scheme in practice. A small portion of the plethora of references provided by the examiner demonstrates complexity of monitoring even specific industrial processes related to wastes and their control, with no indication of how such monitoring and controlling of wastes can be unified into a global managing system. The instant disclosure does not give any guidance of how the general concept of managing wastes in a global scale, being obvious on its own, can be realized in practice, which makes the claimed method not enabled by the specification.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yelena G. Gakh, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-1257. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1700.

Yelena G. Gakh
1/14/04

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yelena Gakh".